

IOWA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

PRESS RELEASE

For release, February 13, 2003

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners took the following action:

Kenneth A. Crawford, M.D., a 45 year-old physician from Browning, Montana, was charged by the Iowa Board with being disciplined by, and/or entering into a voluntary agreement that restricts the practice of medicine with, the medical licensing authority in another state, district, territory or country. On October 10, 2001, Dr. Crawford's clinical privileges were revoked by Indian Health Services following evidence he failed to meet the standard of care for the prescribing of controlled substances. On May 10, 2002, Dr. Crawford entered into a Settlement Agreement with Indian Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services, voluntarily resigning from the medical staff and agreeing that he would not apply for any direct patient care positions with Indian Health Service for a period of five (5) years. A hearing in this matter is scheduled for March 25, 2003.

Kenzo Sato, M.D., a 63 year-old dermatologist from Dubuque, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. Dr. Sato was charged with failing to have an appropriately trained physician review pathology slides and provide a second opinion in his treatment of two patients in 1998. Dr. Sato has since implemented a system to ensure that all slides are reviewed by an appropriately trained physician when clinically appropriate.

Stephen E. Sparks, M.D., a 48 year-old physician from Bloomfield, Iowa, was charged by the Board with the inability to practice medicine in a safe manner due to drug and alcohol abuse and dependence. A hearing in this matter is scheduled for March 25, 2003.